

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0883

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2795

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 FIRST NAME COLETTE VICE COLLETE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, SG

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PERSONS ACCOMPANYING  
PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO UNITED STATES

REF: DAKAR 2714

1. REQUESTS TO GOS FOR BIO INFO ON MRS LEOPOLD SEDAR  
SENGHOR AND MRS ASSANE SECK HAVE SO FAR GONE UNHEEDED.  
FOLLOWING DRAWN FROM EMBASSY SOURCES AND IS FOR RESTRICTED  
USE.

2. MRS COLETTE HUBERT SENGHOR, WIFE OF SENEGAL'S PRESIDENT,  
WAS BORN NOVEMBER 20, 1928 IN THE NORMANDY REGION OF FRANCE.  
AFTER COMPLETING HER EDUCATION, SHE ENTERED THE FRENCH CIVIL  
SERVICE RISING TO THE POSITION OF PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. IN THE FOURTH  
REPUBLIC GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER EDGAR FAURE THAT POST  
WAS HELD BETWEEN 1955 AND 56 BY LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR. ON  
OCTOBER 18, 1957 THEY WERE MARRIED. THEIR SON, PHILLIPE,  
WAS BORN TWO YEARS LATER; AFTER SEVERAL YEARS IN SWISS SCHOOLS,  
HE IS COMPLETING HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION IN DAKAR. PRESIDENT  
SENGHOR'S TWO SONS OF A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE ARE FRANCIS, A  
FORMER STUDENT OF THE BERKEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC IN  
MASSACHUSETTS, AND GUY, WHO IS SEEKING AN ADVANCED DEGREE  
IN PHILOSOPHY AT THE SORBONNE.

3. FROM PAST ASSOCIATION WITH THE LEADERS OF THE FRENCH  
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FOURTH AND FIFTH REPUBLICS, MRS SENGHOR HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE

CONTACTS WITH THE WIVES OF THE LATE PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU, AND INCUMBENT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. RECENTLY MRS SENGHOR WAS HOSTESS FOR A VISIT TO DAKAR OF THE MOTHER OF FARA DIBA, EMPRESS OF IRAN. SHE HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY IN AFRICA, EUROPE, AND ASIA WITH HER HUSBAND, BUT THIS IS HER FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. IT COMES SHORTLY AFTER AN OPERATION SHE UNDERWENT IN PARIS, AND SHE IS CONCERNED NOT TO HAVE TOO HEAVY A U.S. SCHEDULE AFTER THE MEXICAN VISIT.

4. MRS SENGHOR'S STRONG INTERESTS IN ADDITION TO HER HUSBAND AND SONS, ARE IN SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND THE RED CROSS, AS WELL AS THE CREATIVE ARTS, INCLUDING WOMEN'S FASHIONS. EARLIER THIS YEAR SHE WAS THE PARTON OF A MAJOR ONE-WOMAN EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS BY THE SENEGALESE ARTIST AND ACTRESS, YOUNOUSSE SEYE.

5. MRS SENGHOR HAS A KEEN SENSE OF HUMOR AND AN UNUSUAL MEMORY OF NAMES AND FACES AND AFTER LARGE RECEPTIONS AT THE PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC IS ABLE TO CITE THOSE WHO WERE INVITED BUT DID NOT ATTEND.

6. MRS ASSANE SECK, WIFE OF THE SENEGALESE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS BORN URSULE CAMILLE JOUGA IN 1928 AT FOUNDIOUGNE, A COASTAL TOWN IN THE SINE-SALOUM REGION.

7. WHILE HER HUSBAND IS A MOSLEM, MRS SECK IS A CHRISTIAN. THEY HAVE SEVERAL CHILDREN. SHE IS SOFT SPOKEN WOMAN OF PLEASANT DISPOSITION WHO DOES NOT SEEK THE LIMELIGHT. SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE A NUMBER OF AMERICAN FRIENDS, INCLUDING DR RUTH SCHACTER MORGENTHAU, A PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY.  
AGGREY

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